

In light of the current public health crisis and the Federal, State and County Emergency Declarations, and in accord with the provisions of Sec. 610.020, RSMo., the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it would be dangerous and impractical, if not impossible, for its meeting to be physically accessible to the public. The Board also recognizes the need for the public's business to be attended to in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare. In order to balance both the need for continuity of government and protection of the health and safety of our residents, business persons and employees, this meeting of the Community Equity Commission will not be open to public attendance in person. The meeting will be accessible by the public in real time ONLY by following the instructions in the box below.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: August 12, 2021 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Community Equity Commission

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731880400>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +19292056099,,84731880400# or +13017158592,,84731880400#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 847 3188 0400

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731880400>

Persons interested in making their views known on any matter on the agenda should send an email with their comments to the Assistant to the City Manager at amuskopf@claytonmo.gov. All comments received will be distributed to the entire Commission before the meeting.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we all try to get through these difficult and dangerous times.

Community Equity Commission
August 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of July 8, 2021 Minutes
3. Welcome of New Ex-officio Member
4. Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force Recommendation
5. Administrative Advisory Subcommittee Proposal
6. Discussion Timeline
7. Old Business
 - a. Public Comments from July 8, 2021 Meeting
8. Public Comment
9. Comments from Members
10. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9 at 5:30 pm
11. Adjourn

The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission
Virtual Zoom Meeting
July 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Laura Horwitz (Chair), Chris Schmiz, Ben Uchitelle, Yvonne Tisdell, Stuart Berkowitz, and Ellen Gale (ex officio).

Additional: Alderwoman Susan Buse, City Manager David Gipson, and Assistant to the City Manager Andrea Muskopf

Minutes

Chris Schmiz moved to approve the June 10, 2021 minutes. Yvonne Tisdell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Zoning Q&A – ([Video Link](#) | Passcode: 16WpZW@^)

City Manager Gipson answered questions regarding his recorded presentation.

Planning the Year Ahead

The Commission discussed the year ahead. The current list of priorities is as follows:

- Housing/Economic Development
- Welcoming City
 - What symbolic/signaling efforts can we make to change the perception of Clayton?
- Community Education and Engagement
 - What is the Commission's role?
- Vendor/Supplier Diversity
- Hiring Practices
- Updates on other policies and procedures
- Analyzing and Tracking Citizen Survey Data
- Continue to monitor:
 - Satisfaction Survey
 - Traffic Stop Data
 - Suspicious Activity Calls
 - Municipal Court Recommendations

Election of Chair

Chris Schmiz moved to re-appoint Laura Horwitz as Chair. Yvonne Tisdell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business**Public Comments from June 10, 2021**

There were no public comments from the June 10, 2021 meeting.

Public Comment

Rick Bliss inquired as to why Housing/Economic Development ranked so high on the priority list following the results from the 2021 Citizen Survey.

Branden Watson asked the Commission what community engagement looks like and if it has been defined.

Kathleen Gund shared that the Commission should consider the functions established by the Board of Aldermen when setting their priorities for the year, including the role to apply an equity lens to the operations, policies, procedures, and practices of the City.

Comments from Members

None.

Next Meeting Date

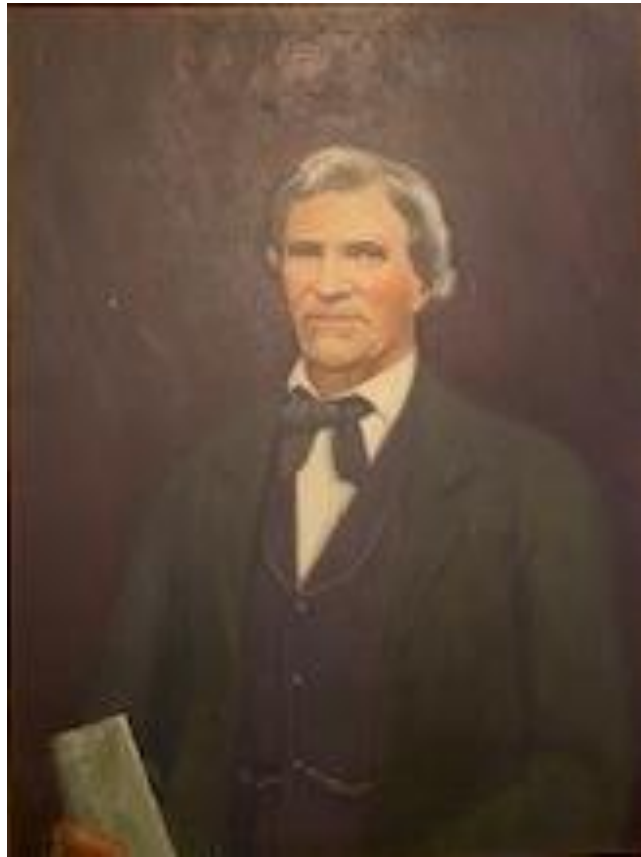
The next meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn

Yvonne Tisdell moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris Schmitz seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Portrait of Ralph Clayton

Located in Council Chambers behind Mayor's seat



Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force

RECOMMENDATION

Guiding Principles

1. *Commemorative objects should align with our community's highest aspirations, including as these relate to truthfulness, equity, and inclusion.*
2. *When considering existing or proposed commemorative objects, the City of Clayton should seek to honestly and productively engage history, and never to erase it.*
3. *When considering inherited and new commemorative objects, both past and present contributions and impacts of the representation must be given careful consideration.*

Evaluation Criteria

1. *Is the principal legacy of the namesake and/or is the subject depicted fundamentally at odds with current community values? If yes, please explain.*
2. *What was the context at the time and is that something we want to continue to honor and embrace?*
3. *Does the place name or commemorative object celebrate a part of history that we believe is fundamental to who we are and what we value?*
4. *Does the place name or commemorative object make a nuanced, complex history accessible to the public, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?*
5. *Does the place name or commemorative object restore histories that have been erased or not adequately represented, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?*

Summary

The Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force recommends that the portrait of Ralph Clayton be relocated from the Aldermanic Chamber in City Hall to the Clayton CCF History Center at the Center of Clayton. City Hall is a public space unparalleled in its representation of the values of the city. Whereas Ralph Clayton's wealth and power were derived in part through the exploitation of enslaved people, and those values are at extreme odds with the contemporary City of Clayton's commitments to equity and inclusion, he should not be honored in Council Chambers at City Hall. It is recommended that the portrait initially be a part of an educational display created in collaboration with Clayton Community Foundation at the Center of Clayton, where the

whole and truthful story of this important historical figure can be told. After the display period, we recommend a suitable place for the portrait could be found in City Hall.

Below we provide more detail on this commemorative object and this recommendation with reference to our evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Is the principal legacy of the namesake and/or is the subject depicted fundamentally at odds with current community values? If yes, please explain.

- a. *Ralph Clayton's principal legacy is that of a large landowner who, in exchange for donating land that became the City of Clayton, became the city's namesake. Born in Virginia, Clayton migrated to Missouri by 1850 and owned 600 or 700 acres of land in what was then known as the central township. He bought the land from John McKnight who bought it from Charles Gratiot who had originally acquired the land through a Spanish land grant.*
- b. *After the 'great divorce' of St. Louis City & County in 1879, Ralph's Clayton's "third proposition" was chosen out of six propositions vying to become the new county seat. In return for the town bearing his name, Mr. Clayton, whose son William D. Clayton, was the new county clerk and recorder of deeds, agreed to donate 100 acres, which together with an additional four acres from the Hanley estate became the new county seat. In addition, what was formerly Smith Road became Clayton Road from the new city limits west to Conway Road. Ralph Clayton died in 1883 at the age of 95.*
- c. *Ralph Clayton's wealth and power, and thus this donation of land, were derived in part through the exploitation of enslaved people. Census records indicate that Ralph Clayton owned at least one enslaved person in 1860, and he was likely implicated in the enslavement of others through subleases and related arrangements common in urban contexts.*
- d. *Whereas Ralph Clayton's wealth and power were derived in part through the exploitation of enslaved people, and those values are at extreme odds with the contemporary City of Clayton's commitments to equity and inclusion, he should not be honored in City Hall.*

2. What was the context at the time and is that something we want to continue to honor and embrace?

- a. *The portrait of Ralph Clayton was commissioned in 1931, after the opening of the new City Hall in 1930.*
- b. *Considering its incongruity with values of equity and inclusion, the decision to commemorate Ralph Clayton in City Hall is troubling in retrospect and remains so today.*

3. Does the place name or commemorative object celebrate a part of history that we believe is fundamental to who we are and what we value?

- a. *Ralph Clayton undeniably is a part of Clayton's history. His wealth enabled him to donate land and thus acquire naming rights to both our city and main thoroughfare. And his portrait should be represented as part of that history, thus the recommendation that it be part of a display where the story of the donation of his property can be put in its historical context.*
- b. *However, as an enslaver, Ralph Clayton does not have the moral authority to preside over the space where our city government meets to "foster a diverse and inclusive community with a vital balance of neighborhoods, businesses, commercial and government centers, educational institutions and a healthy natural environment through an open equitable, accessible and fiscally responsible government."*

4. Does the place name or commemorative object make a nuanced, complex history accessible to the public, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?

- a. *The portrait does not presently offer a nuanced historical account and the setting is unlikely to accommodate a more complex and publicly accessible representation.*
- b. *By including the portrait in the context of an historical display, with accompanying interpretive material, Clayton's founding story can be told honestly and fully in accordance with the guiding principle "to productively engage history and never to erase it."*

5. Does the place name or commemorative object restore histories that have been erased or not adequately represented, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?

- a. *Ralph Clayton was a generous benefactor of the City of Clayton but there is no indication that he contributed to the development of a fair and just government, or that he is otherwise appropriate to honor in the chambers of our city government. Thus while his portrait rightfully has a place in our City Hall, that place should not be on the wall of the chamber that*

represents “our community’s highest aspirations, including as these relate to truthfulness, equity, and inclusion.”

Discussion Timeline

Item	July	August	September	October	November	December
Housing/Economic Development	Zoning 101	Policy Levers & Possibilities	Recommendations			
Welcoming City			Defining "Welcoming"	Opportunities	Recommendations	
Community Education and Engagement				Topics	Opportunities	Recommendations
Developing Partnerships with Ex-officio Members				Rotating Member Highlight (Wash U)	Opportunities	Recommendations
Vendor/Supplier Diversity			Discussion	Opportunities	Recommendations	
Hiring Practices					Discussion	Opportunities
Updates on other polices and procedures						Discussion
Analyzing and Tracking Citizen Survey Data						

Monitor	July	August	September	October	November	December
Satisfaction Data						
Traffic Stop Data						
Suspicious Activity Calls						
Municipal Court Recommendations						